

Application no.: 09/274,935
Amendment dated September 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of February 27, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1, 2, 13, 17, 19 and 20 have been amended. Claims 1 - 20 remain in the case.

Applicants and Applicants' undersigned attorney and agent wish to thank Examiner Markoff for his time and courteous, helpful suggestions during the Office Interview of September 8, 2004. The foregoing amendments have been made pursuant to that interview.

Specifically, the micropitting and roughening results of the processes recited in the claims are now affirmatively stated. Moreover, the claims have been amended to specifically recite the embedded resistor printed wiring board (PWB) on which the claimed processes are performed. Both of these limitations help define over the prior art of record, notably TAKATSU, that describes mere smoothing and reduced adhesion of a copper surface to subsequent materials disposed over the copper.

As noted in the enclosed Rule 132 Affidavit of co-applicant John M. Lauffer, use of Applicants' techniques yielded unexpected results due, it is believed, to micropitting and roughening -- not mere smoothing -- of the copper surface. In fact, TAKATSU teaches away from the invention, as roughening and smoothing are exactly opposite results.

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In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request that claims 1 - 20 be allowed and a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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